



LEGAL ACTION REPORT

The **Historic Landscapes Subcommittee** of the Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission met at **12:00 pm, on Thursday, November 19, at BWS Architects, 261 North Court Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701.**

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM and a quorum was established.

Members Present:

Helen Erickson, Chair
Arthur Stables
Stephen Grede

Members Absent:

Patsy Waterfall
Josephine (Toni) Hilliard

2. **Approval of Minutes – May 22, 2015**

The minutes were approved.

3. **Himmel Park Guidelines**

Commissioner Grede presented the response for Himmel Park Guidelines as follows;

Thank you for sharing the Himmel Library Landscape Design Concept.

- *All of Himmel Park is included within the Himmel Park Historic District.*
- *The location of this design has a minor impact on the design of Himmel Park as a whole.*

The following design features do not take into account the historic character of the park or the library building

- *The Landscape Design Concept Plan presents multiple hardscape changes (concrete walks, entry brick patio, and topography)*
- *The Landscape Design Concept Plan makes significant planting modifications (species and a random planting cluster form not historically utilized in Himmel Park or parks of that era)*
- *Turf is a defining characteristic of Himmel Park. Removal means loss of historic fabric.*

The following minor design changes would make the landscape more compatible with the period of the park and library

- *The use of brick, although appropriate to the time period, is not otherwise utilized in Himmel Park and disrupts stylistic continuity. Concrete may be more appropriate.*
- *Changes in surface topography should be minimal so as not to detract from the overall form of the space and library.*
- *The diverse plant palette should be simplified. A palette appropriate for a private dwelling rather than a public space has been proposed.*
- *The introduction of new species to the park should be sensitive to the historic vegetative forms/plant structures.*
- *A more architectural use of planting is appropriate for Himmel Park and public places of this time period. This means grouping rather than dispersal of the same species.*

Commissioner Erickson **responded** to a request for evaluation and guidance on the Himmel Park Beautification Project. The evaluation was requested by Jennifer Levstik (COT) on 10/14/15, and the response was forwarded to her on 11/18/15. Commissioner Stables moved that the response be included in the meeting minutes for future reference; this was seconded by Commissioner Grede. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Neighborhood Inventory Project

Commissioner Stables presented an overview of the streetscape inventory work undertaken by Commissioners Stables and Waterfall. During December 2015 a working group made up of members of the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee and the Armory Park Neighborhood Association will test the methodology in Armory Park.

5. Call to the Audience

No audience was present.

6. Summary of Current Events (Information only)

It was noted that an article summarizing collaborative work between COT, the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee and a wide range of civic and citizen organizations was published in the Fall 2015 issue of the *Alliance Review*.

A 2016 issue on streetscapes is being planned by the National Association of Preservation Commissions (NAPC), and the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee has been invited to provide an article for that issue.

7. Future Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items

A January 2016 meeting will be scheduled to discuss the results of the cooperative work on landscape inventory by the Historic Landscapes Subcommittee and the Armory Park Neighborhood Association.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 PM.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (520) 791-4213 or TTY (520) 791-2639. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Under the State Open Public Meeting Law, no topics other than those listed above may be addressed or acted on at this meeting.